

English Language Arts 8 - 3 Terms - 2011-2012
North Muskegon Middle School

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Course Objective: Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are essential life skills. The eighth grade English language arts curriculum focuses on developing these skills to build a foundation for student success in high school and the activities of everyday life. During the process of improving these essential skills, students will study various literary genres, practice grammar usage, learn new vocabulary, and engage in writing. Students are expected to learn to view the English language as a tool for communication and reflection.

Units of Study:

- Writing: Each student will receive a writer's notebook that he/she will use daily to develop writing skills in this continuous unit of study.
- Reading for Enjoyment: This independent reading unit encourages students to read for fun every day.
- Vocabulary: At the beginning of each week, students will receive a list of ten words along with exercises for using them. Students will be quizzed on the words every Friday.
- Literary Genres: Primary units of study for literature will include nonfiction, drama, fiction, and poetry. Textbook selections will be the primary source for the study of literature.
- Grammar Usage: Student writing in the writing workshop will drive the units of study for grammar usage. The textbook will support the units of study.

Texts: McDougal Littell's *The Language of Literature*, *Language Network*

Materials: Students are responsible for bringing learning materials and supplies to the classroom. Learning materials include the writer's notebook, a course binder, texts, assignments, independent reading book, and pen and pencil. These materials and supplies should be kept organized and readily available.

Grading: All grades will be determined by dividing the points earned on assignments by the total points possible. Grades are determined by the standard North Muskegon grading scale:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| A+ | 100 - 99 | C | 76 - 73 |
| A | 98 - 93 | C- | 72 - 70 |
| A- | 92 - 90 | D+ | 69 - 67 |
| B+ | 89 - 87 | D | 66 - 63 |
| B | 86 - 83 | D- | 62 - 60 |
| B- | 82 - 80 | F | 59 - 0 |
| C+ | 79 - 77 | | |

Classroom Guidelines:

- Students are expected to behave in a manner conducive to learning. Disruptions in the learning process because of behavior will not be tolerated. All students are expected to follow the golden rule.
- Students should be ready to learn at the class meeting time. All materials should be brought to class.
- Use of hall passes will be recorded, monitored, and minimally allowed.
- All work should be submitted when due. Late work will be penalized or not accepted at the teacher's discretion. The general guideline is a 10% deduction per day late. There will be exceptions to the guideline.
- An absent student will receive instructions from the teacher for missed lessons but should also seek assistance from classmates and the teacher for clarification. Missed work should be submitted within the same number of days as the student was absent.
- Any assignment not turned in due to absence will be expected upon the student's return.

Student: _____

My signature indicates that I have read the syllabus for Ms. Knuth's 8th grade language arts course.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____